Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 12, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 9, as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first determination unit configured to determine a type of an object contained in input data;

a second determination unit ~~for determining~~ configured to determine, in a case where the type of the object contained in the input data is determined by said first determination unit to be a text type or a graphic type, whether or not ~~a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color~~ an amount of colorant of a specified color exceeds a first colorant amount when the specified color contained in the input data has been rasterized;

~~a processing unit for applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and~~

~~a rasterizing unit for rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color~~

a conversion unit configured to convert, when it is determined by said second determination unit that the amount of colorant of the specified color exceeds the first colorant amount, the specified color into a color with an amount of colorant that falls within the first colorant amount;

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a rasterizing unit configured to rasterize the text type or graphic type object contained in the input data with a color converted or not converted by said conversion unit, and rasterize an image type object contained in the input data without determination by said second determination unit and conversion by said conversion unit; and

a processing unit configured to set,

i) when the type of the object rasterized by said rasterizing unit is the graphic type and a fine line correction mode is not selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant of the graphic type object to the first colorant amount,

ii) when the type of the object rasterized by said rasterizing unit is the graphic type and a fine line correction mode is selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant of the graphic type object to the second colorant amount which is smaller than the first colorant amount, and

iii) when the type of the object rasterized by said rasterizing unit is the text or image type, an amount of colorant of the text or image type object to the first colorant amount independent of whether or not the fine line correction mode is selected based on the user operation.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first determination unit determines the type of object based upon an instruction contained in image data described in page description language.

5.   (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

a first determination step of determining, using a first determination unit, a type of an object contained in input data;

a second determination step of determining, using a second determination unit, in a case where the type of the object contained in the input data is determined in said first determining step to be a text type or a graphic type, whether or not ~~a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated color~~ an amount of colorant of a specified color exceeds a first colorant amount when the specified color contained in the input data has been rasterized;

~~a processing step of applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction rate; and~~

~~a rasterizing step of rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the reduction processing to the designated color~~

a conversion step of converting, using a conversion unit, when it is determined in said second determining step that the amount of colorant of the specified color exceeds the first colorant amount, the specified color into a color with an amount of colorant that falls within the first colorant amount;

a rasterizing step of rasterizing, using a rasterizing unit, the text type or graphic type object contained in the input data with a color converted or not converted in said converting step, and rasterizing an image type object contained in the input data without determination in said second determination step and conversion in said converting step; and

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a processing step of setting, using a processing unit,

i) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the graphic type and a fine line correction mode is not selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant of the graphic type object to the first colorant amount,

ii) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the graphic type and a fine line correction mode is selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant of the graphic type object to the second colorant amount which is smaller than the first colorant amount, and

iii) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the text or image type, an amount of colorant of the text or image type object to the first colorant amount independent of whether the fine line correction mode is selected or not based on the user operation.

Claims 6 and 7 (Cancelled).

8.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said first determination step determines the type of object based upon an instruction contained in image data described in page description language.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium for instructing a computer to execute an image forming method, said method comprising:

a first determination step of determining a type of an object contained in input data;

a <u>second</u> determination step of determining<u>, in a case where the type of the object</u>

<u>contained in the input data is determined in said first determining step to be a text type or a</u>

<u>graphic type,</u> whether or not ~~a toner application rate for an object contained in input data exceeds~~

~~a predefined toner reduction rate if the type of the object is formed uniformly of a designated~~

~~color~~ <u>an amount of colorant of a specified color exceeds a first colorant amount when the</u>

<u>specified color contained in the input data has been rasterized;</u>

~~a processing step of applying reduction processing to the designated color of the object so~~

~~that the toner application rate falls within the predefined toner reduction rate when it is~~

~~determined that the toner application rate on the object exceeds the predefined toner reduction~~

~~rate; and~~

~~a rasterizing step of rasterizing the object using the color obtained by applying the~~

~~reduction processing to the designated color~~

<u>a conversion step of converting, when it is determined in said second determining step</u>

<u>that the amount of colorant of the specified color exceeds the first colorant amount, the specified</u>

<u>color into a color with an amount of colorant that falls within the first colorant amount;</u>

<u>a rasterizing step of rasterizing the text type or graphic type object contained in the input</u>

<u>data with a color converted or not converted in said converting step, and rasterizing an image</u>

<u>type object contained in the input data without determination in said second determination step</u>

<u>and conversion in said converting step; and</u>

<u>a processing step of setting,</u>

<u>i) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the graphic type</u>

<u>and a fine line correction mode is not selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant</u>

<u>of the graphic type object to the first colorant amount,</u>

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ii) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the graphic type and a fine line correction mode is selected based on a user operation, an amount of colorant of the graphic type object to the second colorant amount which is smaller than the first colorant amount, and

iii) when the type of the object rasterized in said rasterizing step is the text or image type, an amount of colorant of the text or image type object to the first colorant amount independent of whether the fine line correction mode is selected or not based on the user operation.

Claims 10 through 14 (Cancelled).